

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 14:56:08 1994
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 1994 08:40:56 +0800
From: Raymond.Anderson@EBay.Sun.COM (Ray Anderson)
Message-Id: <9409191540.AA12090@uranium.EBay.Sun.COM>
Subject: Re: 10-20 meters

Re: 10-20 meters>

> Everyone is proposing the same idea for the 10-20 meters converter:
> A low-side LO into the mixer. Why not use a high-side LO? Mix the
> inbound 14 MHz signal with a 42 MHz LO to get 28 MHz and 56 MHz, with
> no birdies. Filter appropriately and you should be set. A stable
> and clean 42 MHz is harder to obtain than 14 MHz or 15 MHz, but the
> lack of birdies would make it worthwhile.
>
> Stephen

This will work just fine, the only down side to it is that the tuning will be backwards. i.e., as you tune the 10 meter rig higher in frequency, the 20 meter signal moves lower in frequency. This can cause some confusion in interpreting the frequency if you have a digital readout (requires lots of mental arithmetic). If you have a simple knob and a pointer, a dial plate with the numbers going in the correct direction is all that is required.

>
> Every is discussing the receive side, but how to take the 5W 28 Mc
> output from the xcvr and convert it down to 14 Mc is the real
> problem.
>
> Jeff
>

No real problem Jeff. All the discussion that has ensued so far is pertinent. The inbound signal mixes up to 10 meters and the outbound signal mixes down to 20 meters. I realize that the last sentence smacks of hand-waving and that the details are left for the interested student to work out, but there aren't any fundamental problems that aren't solvable by common means. Good luck!

72's de WB6TPU Ray

raymonda@uranium.ebay.sun.com

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 17:25:27 1994
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 1994 16:21:41 -0400
From: acpy01!vmdoug.utsd.att.com!os2user@acpy01.attmail.com

(os2user@vmdoug.utsd.att.com)

Subject: Re: 10-20 meters

Message-Id: <9409191927.AA0283@vmdoug.utsd.att.com>

Ray writes:

>[...] The inbound signal mixes up to 10 meters and the outbound
>signal mixes down to 20 meters. I realize that the last sentence
>smacks of hand-waving and that the details are left for the interested
>student to work out

I've been following all of this with interest, and now I think I want to try this too!

I know that for my rig (a Uniden HR2600 10m only) I would need an attenuator to drop the 25 watt 10 meter signal down to something much lower that a mixer circuit can handle.

My question is: how weak does the signal have to be when it reaches the mixer circuit (in watts) and how do I build an attenuator to take 25 watts and put out a weak signal so I don't blow the mixer. (You may assume the mixer is either a 40673 or an SBL-1).

Doug KA2UPW

doug@acpy01.utsd.att.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 19:48:11 1994

Message-Id: <199409192125.AA08915@halcyon.com>

Date: Mon, 19 Sep 1994 14:26:32 -0700

From: xenolith@halcyon.com (Kevin Purcell)

Subject: Re: 10-20meters

>I assume that Jeff's rig covers 28-29.7 MHz...so mix 29 to 29.5

>

>to get 14 to 14.5 mhz....by by birdie...use a double balanced mixer

>and terminate the IF port with a diplexer....should work like

>a champ...

>

>Heat up your iron...

>

>Clark Fishman WA2UNN cfishman@pica.army.mil

>

>

>just got 200 amp electrical service in house....ready for QRP

How about using the wrap around at 0HZ in your favour (i.e. aliasing) just like a more unusual imaging RX.

Mix your 28Mhz with 42.350 MHz and take only the stuff below 15Mhz.

To see this draw out a line graph with -14MHzz on the left end, then proceed right through zero Hz then +14MHz then +28MHz.

The only problem is that you tune backwards across the band: 28000 will be 14.350 down to 28350 --> 14000. If you can get a xtal roughly around here you could always tune a different part of the band the match your xtal (and do the arithmetic in your head).

Make sure you front end has zero gain otherwise you'll overload the probably weak front end in the 10m TxRX.

have fun!

Kevin Purcell, N7WIM / G8UDP xenolith@halcyon.com 206/649-6489
Seattle dBug Mac Developers SIG organiser

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 13:28:40 1994
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 94 11:20:12 EDT
From: teda@meaddata.com (Ted Albert)
Message-Id: <9409191520.AA03586@rain.meaddata.com>
Subject: 160 meters tonight

Just a reminder that I will be on 1812 Khz CW at 10 PM Eastern looking for other qrp stations.

73 de Ted, KF8EE
QRP ARCI # 8544

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 15:26:09 1994
From: bob.berlyn.303@chowda.com (Bob Berlyn)
Subject: 50 Mhz Freq Counter
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 1994 06:08:00 GMT
Message-Id: <9409191215243596@chowda.com>

Hi All,

I have found plans for a 50 Mhz autograding frequency counter in the November 1994 issue of Popular Electronics. The circuit uses a PIC16C5x series microcontroller that is manufactured by Microchip. The project seems easy to build and straight forward even for a novice homebrewer like me.

The microcontroller provides for autoranging, direct display, ie the

frequency is displayed with the actual suffix (Mhz,kHz or Hz) and a floating decimal point. The gate time automatically changes from 0.1 sec to 1 sec at the low end of the frequency range to produce resolution down to 1 Hz.

According to the article the circuit's sensitivity is about 100 mV RMS at frequencies from 100 Hz to 2 Mhz, and decreasing to about 800 mv RMS at 50 Mhz.

The project looks like it would satisfy most if not all of my freq. measurmements for the QRP homebrewing that I do. It can be built for a lot less that I can buy one for. I think I am going to build it. I hope some of you with a lot more experience than me can answer a question.

THE QUESTION IS: Does the circuit have enough sensitivity to align, test Etc and act as a general piece of test equipment on my bench?

Thanks

* OFFLINE 1.54 * Bob Berlyn N1PWU

Bob.Berlyn@Chowda.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 16:24:08 1994

Message-Id: <9409191818.AA22209@kaos.ksr.com>

Subject: Re: 50 Mhz Freq Counter

Date: Mon, 19 Sep 94 14:18:09 -0400

From: "John F. Woods" <jfw@ksr.com>

At 800mV sensitivity, it's probably good enough to check out VF0s and such. If you need more sensitivity, an MAR amplifier will run about \$1 in your next order to your favorite surplus shop.

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 22:19:45 1994

Message-Id: <9409192350.AA18663@ig1.att.att.com>

From: mvjfm@mvubr.att.com (James M Fitton +1 508 960 2577)

Date: 19 Sep 94 23:52:00 GMT

Subject: Glenn

Glenn,

your return mail bounced so am notifying you via the whole world.

>From att!Mon Mon Sep 19 19:30:30 1994

Received: from att.UUCP by ig2.att.att.com id AA03331; Mon, 19 Sep 94 19:30:30 EDT

Received: by gw1.att.com; Mon Sep 19 13:28:57 EDT 1994

Received: by bdt.bdt.com (/\\==/\\ Smail3.1.28.1 #28.4)

id <m0qmmTw-00000pC@bdt.bdt.com>; Mon, 19 Sep 94 10:26 PDT

Message-Id: <m0qmmTw-00000pC@bdt.bdt.com>
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 94 10:26 PDT
>From: <MAILER-DAEMON@bdt.com>
To: <mvjf@mvubr.att.com>
Subject: mail failed, returning to sender
Reference: <m0qmmTv-00000oC@bdt.bdt.com>
Status: R

|----- Message log follows: -----|
no valid recipients were found for this message
|----- Failed addresses follow: -----|
<glenn_manard@bdt.COM> ... unknown user
|----- Message text follows: -----|
Received: by bdt.bdt.com (/\/==/\ Smail3.1.28.1 #28.4)
id <m0qmmTv-00000oC@bdt.bdt.com>; Mon, 19 Sep 94 10:26 PDT
Received: from gw1.att.com(192.20.239.133) by bdt via smap (V1.3mjr)
id sma003388; Mon Sep 19 10:25:26 1994
Received: from mvubr.UUCP by ig1.att.att.com id AA21262; Mon, 19 Sep 94 13:21:25
EDT
Message-Id: <9409191721.AA21262@ig1.att.att.com>
>From: mvjf@mvubr.att.com (James M Fitton +1 508 960 2577)
Date: 19 Sep 94 17:18:00 GMT
Original-From: mvubr!mvjf (James M Fitton +1 508 960 2577)
To: glenn_manard@bdt.COM
Subject: Ant

Glenn,
In this order: It is easiest put up a;

1. sloping long wire
2. inverted vee
3. sloping dipole,
4. horizontal dipole.....

I assume you were on 40m...

20m antennas are even easier to put up.

For a simple/tiny 40m/30m ant. tuner/bridge,
see pg. 152 and 167 of Solid State Design For
the Radio Amateur.

I used an edge mount type meter about 100 - 500 microamperes.
And Radio Shack 100 ohm film, 1 watt resistors.
(2 in parallel to make 50 ohms...I combined values shown
in fig 26 and fig 60, to make a tiny bridge that worked)

Good luck.....

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 04:09:16 1994
From: David Adams <dave@flowserver.stem.com>
Message-Id: <9409190457.AA23689@flowserver.stem.com>
Date: Sun, 18 Sep 94 21:58:48 -0700
Subject: HW7

Hola. Just bought an HW-7 and was wondering what mods were advisable. I was told that the HW* handbook was NOT the place to look for 7 mods, so anyone have anything to suggest?

73 de dave, n9uxu
dave@flowserver.stem.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 14:46:36 1994
Message-Id: <199409191537.IAA25915@netcom.netcom.com>
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 94 09:42:05 EDT
From: C=BAILEY%IS%211EIS@PAMDT.ANG.AF.MIL
Subject: NE QRP AFIELD

I packed my bag with my NorCal 40, plenty of AA batteries, and my 40 meter wire antenna and walked to the nearby elementary school. (Some thought I was running away). It's a quiet place, no people or RFI, where I've had good signals before.

I started at 1900Z by setting up an inverted vee. My apex was up about 40 feet in a tree. (Got the cord right where I wanted it, first time!) Power was set beforehand using a rf probe and DVM. With the NorCal set back to 900mW, I proceeded to work 9 stations in the next hour and half.

I used my paddles for the first time in a contest. My keyer locked up on me and it took a while to figure out the paddles were to blame. I had contact spacing to short. (Next time, the straight key will be there as back up). Then it started to rain. I was truly QRP Afield, with no table or chairs guys! I was prostrate on the grass with two place mats to rest my arms on. My XYL called my on 2 meters and asked if I wanted an umbrella. How nice! Then with umbrella over the equipment, and a hat over me, I pressed on.

Results: N1QYZ KX1E VE2DRB N4AOX VE3TTV KR4DR(Booming into PA! Where was W8MVW?) W1MWL NG1G NT1V. 8 multipliers.
I shut down at 2130Z. Good thing I did. It began to downpour.

Thanks for the contacts, 72 de Cameron, KT3A

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 03:49:22 1994
From: FOXG@WCSUB.CTSTATEU.EDU

Date: Mon, 19 Sep 1994 1:53:57 -0400 (EDT)
Message-Id: <940919015357.29848292@WCSUB.CTSTATEU.EDU>
Subject: NORCAL40 question

I was operating with my NORCAL40 tonight and noticed the output was about 3 watts at 7040 khz (worked WA, and 2 AL tonight from CT). Spun down to 7003 (low end on my rig) and found the power down to about 1.5 watts. Is this discrepancy over such a small range normal?

On another note, drove with WJ1B (QRP convert) to NN1G's place tonight and we both picked up a new rig in a padded yellow envelope! WJ1B got the 40-40 and I went with the 30-40. I've already scribbled the part numbers from R/S (will make it plug compatible with the NORCAL40).

Last detour. I joined a few ops at the W1FD QRP Afield Day in Meriden, CT. We did very well on 20, working lots of northern Europeans. We were amazed they were all QRPers, giving out their numbers et al, until I realized they were operating another (SAC) contest. Oh well.

Geoff Fox
WA1U

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 14:41:07 1994
Subject: Re: NORCAL40 question
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 94 9:13:50 PDT
From: "Stan Goldstein, N6ULU" <stan@cruzio.com>
Message-Id: <9409190913.aa18880@cruzio.com>

Hi Geoff, I was part of the n6kr team that managed to work you (w1fd) on Saturday. We had a good time and will be sending our log onto the internet soon.

Regarding the low output power on the norcal-40, yes it can be somewhat peaky, but I found if I tweak it for the middle of the bandspread, I don't notice a power drop off. On my norcal I get about 4.7 watts out (slightly modified in the output tank and final collector rf choke) at around 7010-7030, at 7001 I lose about 1/2 watt, 4.2 at 7050, and 2.7 at 7060.

hope this helps.

The mods I referred to have been published in QRPP. They are; replace c 46 with a 660 pf (this was the bulk of the power improvement) and I replaced rfc1 with a torroidal inductor, this picked up about a 1/2 watt for me, but others have seen no change.
73/72

--
Stan Goldstein, N6ULU

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 17:02:26 1994

Subject: QRP Afield
Message-Id: <COAKLEY.940919151230@portland.maine.EDU>
From: COAKLEY@PORTLAND.CAPS.MAINE.EDU
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 94 15:12:31 EDT

Well. I didn't exactly get Afield, but I got Ashack for the first time in months. I spent about an hour and a half between 1600 and 2000, almost entirely on 40 and made 18 or 19 contacts in about 10 states/provinces. This contest is a good idea, and allowing home qth operation is a plus.

72,
Bob, KX1E

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 11:17:04 1994
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 1994 08:41:55 -0400
From: Chester Bowles <bowles@mv.MV.COM>
Message-Id: <199409191241.IAA24005@mv.mv.com>
Subject: QRP Afield (from Maine)

Hi gang,

I'm not a subscriber to the list, but I hope you won't mind if I share some of my comments about Saturday's QRP Afield event.

I set up at my cabin in Oquossoc, Maine which is on the shores of Mooselookmeguntic Lake (don't you love those names?) Had a little problem getting the dipole to stay up in the trees, so I ended up using a 130 foot long wire which worked "OK."

My station wasn't lightweight, but it was portable: I used my Ten Tec Scout and a 12V car battery. That, plus a Dentron tuner, my keyer and paddle meant that this would certainly not take the prize for small size!

Had lots of good contacts on 40 during the early going, but things really "dried up" at about 4:30. Now that I've read Jim's message, I know that thunderstorms came through the area about that time, so the folks in Southern New England packed it in.

I ended up with 33 contacts and 16 states. At 4 points/contact (High power, non-permanent antenna and non-commercial power), that gives me a net score of 1980.

It was fun and I certainly enjoyed myself, but _I_ had good weather. Like Jim said, please let us know what you liked/didn't like about the contest. We'd like to make it even better next year.

Coincidentally, send your logs and entry forms to me at:

Chet Bowles, AA1EX
RFD 2, Box 335L
Sharon, NH 03458

Please also include any photos, comments, etc. Include your name, call, etc. because I'm going to try to put together an article for publication and will need that stuff to give you proper credit.

Chet, AA1EX

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 14:16:10 1994
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 94 09:47:51 -0500
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Message-Id: <9409191447.AA13497@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>
Subject: QRP Afield de ME entry

Gang,

Well, looks like the contest chair has the highest score that I've seen so far. Knew that I couldn't win my own trophy. :-)

The weather here was just perfect this weekend, and many of you have seen my postings the last year about my bouts with Thunderbumpers and Lightning.

Stay tuned for the FOX Hunt instructions to follow this week after I double check with the Foxes.

dit dit

SIG

Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60
adams@sgi.com

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 15:18:36 1994
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 1994 12:39:55 -0400 (EDT)
From: wynn c c <wyn@stc06.CTD.ORNL.GOV>
Subject: QRP Afield Report - N4A0X
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9409191204.A680-01000000@stc06.CTD.ORNL.GOV>

QRP Afield Report

Saturday morning things looked bad for a field trip with heavy rain

showers in the East Tennessee area, so preparations were put on hold. The rain stopped in the afternoon with more rain forecast later in the day. The XYL and I loaded up and drove up to the Look Rock Picnic Area on Chilhowee Mountain near the Look Rock Scenic Overlook at approx. 3000 ft ASL. The area is accessible from the southern part of the foothills parkway that winds along the border of the Smoky Mountains National Park near Cades Cove.

Because of the earlier rain and more forecast, we had the whole area to ourselves. With the cool mist from low clouds winding through the trees, speckled with shafts of sunlight through the leaved canopy, the area looked like a scene out of the enchanted forest. The only noise was the rush of the wind through the dense foilage, the gentle creak of the tall oaks, and yellow acorns the size of pecans falling on to the thick spongey carpet of rain soaked leaves.

I picked out a concrete picnic table strategically located near three small trees. I used the little ARK 4, a gel cel, and the 3 dB pad (ugh!) antenna (RG174 and 24 ga. speaker wire) up about 15 feet in the trees as an inverted vee. We had everything set up and ready by 19:00Z. While my better half read her novel, I eagerly jumped into the fray, straining to hear far away stations, and sending out feeble CQ QRP TEST's. After working about 19 stations with 10 multipliers we noticed the sky darkening and the wind stiffening. I wanted so bad to get that 20th station and fill up my log sheet. My persistence was rewarded by working NG1G (NE #2) as the 20th contact. Not bad for a good ending to a great field trip. I signed off at 21:30Z and began to pack up.

No sooner did we close the car doors and start the engine, when the rain hit again. As we started back down the mountain the sky opened up. The rain became so heavy that driving was difficult. Thinking back, it was good luck working NG1G as the last station and finishing the log sheet when I did. A few more minutes lingering and we would have been soaked.

A couple of notes to myself regarding next year's event: First, I need a 20M QRP Xcvr, and my 20/40 QRP folded dipole cooking by then. Second, the mountain mist was so heavy it took all of the starch out of the log paper. Next year, use card stock. I can only hope that the weather and the mountain will be so cooperative as this year.

Final accounting: 20 stations and 11 multipliers.

72/73,
C. C. (Clay) Wynn N4AOX
wyn@ornl.gov

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 05:13:46 1994

Date: Mon, 19 Sep 1994 00:34:33 -0700 (PDT)
From: "John D. Spittle" <jds@freenet.vancouver.bc.ca>
Subject: QRP Club of BC - September Meeting
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9409190050.A19786-0100000@freenet.vancouver.bc.ca>

The Quarterly meeting of the QRP Club of British Columbia was held at the Coast Bastion Hotel in Nanaimo on Saturday 10th September. Eleven members attended. We also had five visitors from the Nanaimo ARC, two of whom became members. Three of us travelled from the Mainland to attend.

The meeting as usual focused on "show and tell". Bill, VE7JO brought along his 80M SSB transceiver together with a recently completed 5W amplifier and SWR meter. He continues to provide one of the strongest QRP signals from Vancouver Island.

Bruce, VE7ZM, showed us his 80M and 40M SSB transceivers along with a recently completed dual-band 5W amplifier. He also brought a tape recording of SSB transmissions on QRP net. Bruce will be attending the meeting in Concord next month to ensure representation from BC.

Joe, VE7TX, impressed the visitors with his Neomyte 80M SSB transceiver built into a cigarette package. His 950mW signal with excellent audio quality continues to amaze everyone on the band. Joe announced that he is embarking on a new project - the construction of an ultra-light plane. We look forward to working him QRP aeronautical mobile one of these days!

Dick, VE7GC, showed us his 40M SSB transceiver with 5W amplifier along with a VXO tuned 80M CW transceiver. Dick and Ted, VE7AKA, who was unable to join us, regularly operate QRP/MM from their boats. Both have been having great success in loading up the entire rigging for an antenna rather than the usual backstay alone.

Ted, VE7PA, brought along his 80M QRP SSB transceiver, and a trunk load of test equipment in anticipation of some "hands-on" help in trouble-shooting. There appeared to be no shortage of advice being offered so hopefully his problems are on the way to being solved. We all thank Ted for arranging the splendid accommodations for this meeting.

I brought along an Epiphyte transceiver assembled using the PCB manufactured by Far Circuits. It was certainly a pleasure to work with and the rig was completed and on the air in two evenings. I also brought a 5W amplifier which is to be the subject of an article in the next issue of QRPP. I will be taking them with me to the G-QRP Club Convention in Rochdale next month.

Rather than attempt to attempt to produce a magazine/newsletter at this time, members agreed that we would begin by mailing a brief report following each quarterly meeting to all members. Any other items of interest for enclosure should be mailed to Jack, VE7DZ0. At the same time, I agreed to upload it to QRP BBSs on Packet and the Internet

The next meeting will be on the Mainland and is tentatively set for November 26th. Time and place are yet to be decided.

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 13:14:23 1994
Message-Id: <m0qmj5b-000000oC@bdt.bdt.com>
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 94 06:49 PDT
Subject: QRP-afield
From: GLENN_MENARD@bdt.COM (Glenn Menard)

This QRP afield was my first portable effort with my NorCal 40. I didn't make a lot of QSOs, in fact NONE with another QRP station, but I did have a great learning experience. I was up at 7500' feet near Blue Lakes south of Lake Tahoe. I discovered that getting a dipole up into pine trees, while simple in principle, is in actuality more difficult than I imagined. The 4# test fishing line on my ultra-light spinning reel didn't help either! Finally got set up and listened for 'QRP TEST'. When nothing was heard I sent out my own CQ, and got a reply after the first one! Unfortunately he was not QRP, and just wanted a rag chew, but I was happy for any reply. So that was how it went, no QRP QSOs but several contacts. I did hear Jim, AB6MB in his previously mentioned QSO with KB6OB, but when I called them after their QSO, there was no reply. I missed my chance for an Internet Mailing List QSO! I've got everything ready to go now, so I'll be QRP portable for at least a few more weekends until the weather gets cold!
72 de Glenn KK6ZC

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 11:12:10 1994
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 1994 08:47:05 -0400 (EDT)
From: prvalko <prvalko@vela.acs.oakland.edu>
Subject: Re: Stupid things I've done
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9409190843.A20205-01000000@vela.acs.oakland.edu>

On Sun, 18 Sep 1994, Jeffrey Herman wrote:

[SNIP: Stupid polarity mistake deleted]

> With this, let's start a new thread: Stupid Things I've Done.

>

> .73,

> Jeff NH6IL (soon to be WA6QIJ again for \$70)

^^

Uhhh... Jeff, so is that TWO stupid things you've done?

BTW... when do we get to buy vanity calls?

73 =paul= wb8zjl

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 14:56:51 1994

Subject: Re: Stupid things I've done

Date: Mon, 19 Sep 94 9:23:05 PDT

From: "Stan Goldstein, N6ULU" <stan@cruzio.com>

Message-Id: <9409190923.aa19588@cruzio.com>

> > Jeff NH6IL (soon to be WA6QIJ again for \$70)

> ^^^

> Uhhh... Jeff, so is that TWO stupid things you've done?

>

> BTW... when do we get to buy vanity calls?

> 73 =paul= wb8zjl

>

Last I heard, was vanity calls were going to cost \$ 150. Clinton has to reduce the deficit somehow..

--

Stan Goldstein , N6ULU

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 11:26:58 1994

From: JHW%GIZMO@RCC.RTI.ORG

Date: Mon, 19 Sep 1994 09:10:04 -0400 (EDT)

Subject: TenTec Argonaut

Message-Id: <01HHAG4WMZHE0000EB@RCCW21.RTI.ORG>

Until I read the recent postings about the QRP inventory that you folks have, I didn't realize that, in order to be a successful QRPer, you had to have 5 to 10 qrp rigs, not to mention a couple of unassembled kits. So I have have set out to remedy the situation and am making progress. The list of QRP rigs at my house now includes:

MXM xcvr purchased from Jeff Gold, AC4HF (hope I have the call right)

NN1G for 20m that my wife (K04CK) and I assembled

NN1G for 40m (yet to be assembled)

and, acquired at the Va. Beach hamfest this past weekend,
a TEN-TEC ARGONAUT model 505.

I have seen many references to this rig, here and other places, but I really didn't pay much attention to them because I never thought I would ever have one. Now that I have one, I'm curious. Can someone tell me the following or point me toward information to answer the following questions.

1. What is the history of the Argonaut -- what were the later models and what are the differences between them and the 505?
2. Are there any classic books or magazine articles that talk about the performance of this rig and suggest enhancements or unique accessories that others have made to/for it? I'm thinking of using this rig for CW mobile and motel operation on business trips.
3. Did I get stuck? I paid \$180 for a 505 with manual. It is in fair condition (why do folks put self-tapping screws where machine screws were originally used) and has some modifications made (controls moved from rear panel to front) but none that affect the operation of the rig (no mods made on any of the printed circuit boards or RF sections --just mods made to low-frequency chassis wiring). It needs an alignment (not a big deal) and some contact cleaner, but otherwise seems to operate fine.

Thanks,

joe

WA4GIR

Research Triangle Institute
Research Triangle Park, NC

From owner-qrp-1@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 19:32:42 1994

Message-Id: <199409192126.AA09033@halcyon.com>

Date: Mon, 19 Sep 1994 14:27:31 -0700

From: xenolith@halcyon.com (Kevin Purcell)

Subject: Re: TenTec Argonaut

I have both a 509 and 505. Never compared them side by side though :-(

>1. What is the history of the Argonaut -- what were the later models
>and what are the differences between them and the 505?

Appeared about 1973 or so. The 509 had a few changes in the way the VFO worked and minor changes in design (to improve performance). 509 also had the AF brought out before the AGC for AF filtering.

I think they also broadbanded the RF driver in the 509 (the 505 has it coupled to the RX tuning).

>2. Are there any classic books or magazine articles that talk about
>the performance of this rig and suggest enhancements or unique accessories
>that others have made to/for it? I'm thinking of using this rig for
>CW mobile and motel operation on business trips.

Review in CQ by Ade Weiss in 1973/74.

Add RF gain control or switchable attenuator. The front end isn't that strong. For some reason neither the 505, 509 or the 525 (Argosy) had RF gain controls.

Add a crystal calibrator to reset the dial.

Break the AF chain just before the AGC is detected (you can do this by removing a single capacitor) and add an AF filter. You will need this for CW (the xtal filter is only 4 pole and 2.4Khz wide). Or use an external AF filter, but adding a LOW NOISE one internally is a good idea.

For SSB QRP an external speech processor is very useful not looked into adding internal RF speech processing (clipping). It could be done.

>3. Did I get stuck? I paid \$180 for a 505 with manual. It is in fair
>condition (why do folks put self-tapping screws where machine screws were
>originally used) and has some modifications made (controls moved from
>rear panel to front) but none that affect the operation of the rig (no
>mods made on any of the printed circuit boards or RF sections --just mods
>made to low-frequency chassis wiring). It needs an alignment (not a big
>deal) and some contact cleaner, but otherwise seems to operate fine.

I paid \$150 about 2 years ago. People are starting to ask silly prices for these rigs. If your happy with it your doing fine. I think the range is \$100 to \$200.

>

>Thanks,

> joe WA4GIR Research Triangle Institute
> Research Triangle Park, NC

73 have fun and try SSB QRP -- its a blast!

Kevin Purcell, N7WIM / G8UDP xenolith@halcyon.com 206/649-6489
Seattle dBug Mac Developers SIG organiser

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 13:50:35 1994
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 94 09:49:41 -0500
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Message-Id: <9409191449.AA13504@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>
Subject: Townsend es Tejas RF

Gang,

Anyone heard anything on these two?
I don't remember anything being said
about Tejas, but thought someone mentioned
that Townsend was giving up. Is that
right?

dit dit

p.s. Let the rumors begin.

SIG

Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60
adams@sgi.com

From owner-qrp-l@netcom.com Mon Sep 19 11:16:13 1994
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 1994 08:50:25 -0400 (EDT)
From: prvalko <prvalko@vela.acs.oakland.edu>
Subject: TS-50 Mods
Message-Id: <Pine.3.89.9409190835.B20205-01000000@vela.acs.oakland.edu>

Anybody have comments on making the TS-50 QRP friendly?

Walt, WB8E, sold his Icom triband HT, and purchased a used TS-50
over the weekend. He's looking for ideas.

73 =paul= wb8zjl